

Amendment to 09/888,595 dated 18 May 2004Page 2 of 16Amendments to the Specification

Please delete the paragraph which begins with "It is an object of the present invention" on page 6 and also delete all of the text between this paragraph and the end of page 6. The text to be deleted on page 6 is 4 paragraphs in total. These paragraphs respectively begin with the words "It is an object of the present invention...", "It is yet another object...", "Another object of the invention...", and "Another object of this invention...".

Please amend the paragraph on page 8 which begins with the words "In this application for letters patent" to read as follows:

~~In this application for letters patent the~~ The term lithographic printing precursor is used herein to describe any printing plate, printing cylinder or printing cylinder sleeve, or any other surface bearing a coating of imageable material that may be either converted or removed imagewise to create a surface that may be inked selectively and used for lithographic printing. The phrase lithographic printing surface is ~~used in this application for letters patent~~ herein to describe the selectively inkable surface so created. As a matter of convenience in this application, the term "plate" or "lithographic plate" is used to denote either the lithographic printing precursor or the lithographic printing surface where the distinction is unnecessary or is clear in the context.

Please amend the paragraph on page 8 starting with the words "A platesetter system 5 is shown" to read as follows:

A platesetter system 5 is shown in FIG. 2. The main components of the system are a drum 10 that carries a lithographic plate 11. The drum 10 will typically have some means of clamping the plate to the drum surface (not shown). Drum 10 is also provided with a means of

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rotating about a central axis. Exposure head 12 contains a radiation source that is used to form an image on the plate 11.

Please amend the paragraph on page 9 starting with the words "It is common for modern platesetter" to read as follows:

It is common for modern platesetter exposure heads to have a very narrow depth of focus that makes it necessary to be able to either adjust focus periodically or on-the-fly. In such systems, any significant drift will take the write radiation source out of focus. This can adversely affect the imaged plate. The effect can be quite pronounced and it is not uncommon for a drift of in the order of ~~10's~~ tens of μm to significantly degrade imaging performance. For this reason many systems are equipped with a focus adjustment mechanism, some effecting a simple adjustment of focus between plots, while others include a servo focus controller which continuously adjusts to keep the focus in exact adjustment.

Please amend the paragraph on page 11 starting with the words "FIG. 3 depicts a flow diagram" to read as follows:

FIG. 3 depicts a flow diagram of the method of the invention disclosed herein. A plate is loaded into a platesetter and a test pattern imaged. The test pattern may comprise a number of areas that are related to different parameters to be optimally set and may be a series of lines, a solid image, or some other selected pattern. There may be more than one test pattern per parameter. On completion of imaging, the plate is put through a processing line set up for the particular plate in use. The processed plate is then re-loaded into the

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platesetter and the test patterns read back using a means that will be described in more detail ~~later in this application for letters patent.~~ below. Adjustments are then made to the imaging parameters based on the read-back test patterns. Optionally the cycle can be repeated for verification.

Please amend the paragraph on page 11 starting with the words "Referring now to FIG. 4," to read as follows:

Referring now to FIG. 4, in a preferred embodiment of this invention an auxiliary radiation source 20 is disposed such as to direct ~~it's~~ its radiation beam 21 onto the surface of plate 11 at a point 15. A beam 22 is reflected back from plate 11. The intensity level of the reflected beam 22 depends on the reflectivity of the plate. A radiation detector 23 is positioned to pick up the reflected radiation after optionally being collected, focussed, and redirected by an optical element 24.

Please amend the paragraph on page 18 starting with the words "In an alternative embodiment," to read as follows:

In an alternative embodiment the auxiliary laser is not required. Referring to U.S. Patent 6,137,580, an autofocus system is disclosed which has an auxiliary laser source and a sensor normally operative as a position-sensitive detector for performing focusing operations. Since it would not normally be necessary to have the autofocus system operative during the read-back of the imaged test strips, it is ~~be~~ possible to use this system to sense reflectivity with little or no modification. Since the focus laser is normally selected to give a reasonable reflected light level from commonly used plate types, its wavelength should also be suitable

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for measuring reflectivity. In such a case, the read-back system disclosed above can be implemented with little or no added hardware.